

REMARKS**Status of the Claims**

Claim 1 is currently present in the Application and is an independent method claim. Claims 2-47 have been canceled and no new claims have been added in this Preliminary Amendment. Applicants are not conceding that the subject matter encompassed by claims 1-47, prior to this Preliminary Amendment, are not patentable. Claim 1 was amended and claims 2-47 were canceled in this Preliminary Amendment solely to facilitate expeditious prosecution of the remaining claim. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue claims, including the subject matter encompassed by claims 1-47, as presented prior to this Preliminary Amendment, and additional claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional patent applications.

Conclusion

As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicants that the remaining claim in the Application is in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request an early allowance of such claims.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the Applicants' attorney listed below if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining questions or issues related to this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

By /Joseph T. Van Leeuwen, Reg. No. 44,383/
Joseph T. Van Leeuwen, Reg. No. 44,383
Van Leeuwen & Van Leeuwen
Attorneys for Applicant
Telephone: (512) 301-6738
Facsimile: (512) 301-6742